



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2340

wild horses; management; prohibition

Prime Sponsor: Representative Townsend, LD 16

DPA Committee on Federalism and States' Rights

X Caucus and COW

House Engrossed

OVERVIEW

HB 2340 establishes that the Salt River horse herd (herd) is property of the State of Arizona under the jurisdiction of the Animal Services Division (Division) within the Arizona Department of Agriculture (Department).

PROVISIONS

1. Establishes that the herd is property of Arizona under the jurisdiction of the Division within the Department.
2. Allows the Division to enter into an agreement with a private entity for the active management of the herd and the United States Forest Service for collaborative management of the herd.
3. Prohibits persons from actively managing, taking, slaughtering or euthanizing a horse that is part of the Salt River herd without written authorization from the Division.
4. Stipulates that Arizona is not obligated to pay for the management of the Salt River wild horse herd.
5. Specifies that a person who violates any of these provisions is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.
6. Contains an Emergency Clause.

AMENDMENTS IN FEDERALISM AND STATES' RIGHTS COMMITTEE

1. Stipulates that this State will hold the horses in trust for the people of Arizona.
2. Requires the Division to establish a designated area along the Salt River for the herd that includes enough area to allow the horses to maintain migratory patterns.
3. Prohibits the Division from auctioning a horse that is part of the herd to a person that slaughters or provides horses for slaughter.
4. Prohibits the Division from managing the size of the herd by gelding or ovariectomy.
5. Establishes that the horses are not stray animals and are not subject to Title 3 relating to stray animals.
6. Specifies that cutting, destroying, or vandalizing fencing used to protect the herd as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

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7. Defines *management* to include efforts put forth for the betterment, health and well-being of the herd.
8. Classifies it as a Class 1 misdemeanor to release a domesticated horse into the wild.
9. Removes the Emergency Clause in the bill.
10. Exempts the Department from rulemaking requirements enumerated in Title 41, Chapter 6, for one year after the effective date of the act.

CURRENT LAW

[Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 3, Chapter 11](#) authorizes the Division of the Department to supervise over the livestock interests of the state, protect the livestock industry from theft and protect the welfare of the public in relation to disease that may come with livestock in Arizona. The Division, with the advice of the State Veterinarian, makes decisions on importation of animals and poultry into the state, the slaughter of animals and poultry disposition of carcasses, and the importation, manufacture, sale, distribution or use within the state of serums, vaccines and other biologics intended for diagnostic or therapeutic treatment of animals and poultry.